

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR INTEGRATED IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURING

ACTION

- On July 6, 2006 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to the current rule that limits emissions of toxic air pollutants from integrated iron and steel manufacturing facilities.
- Integrated iron and steel manufacturing facilities convert iron ore to iron and refine the iron to produce steel. The Agency established air toxics standards for these facilities in 2003. The EPA expects the standards to reduce toxic air emissions from the 17 existing plants by about 67 tons per year and to reduce particulate matter emissions by about 5,800 tons per year.
- The final amendments revise the current emissions limit for the cooling process at existing plants from a particulate matter limit to a 10 percent opacity limit.
- The amendments also change the operating limit for an electrostatic precipitator to require that plants maintain the hourly average opacity of emissions from the control device at or below 10 percent.
- A new compliance option allows facilities to use a continuous opacity monitoring system for each control device stack instead of a bag leak detection system. Also, plants are not required to install either a bag leak detection system or a continuous opacity monitoring system for any positive-pressure baghouse with no exhaust stack that was installed before August 30, 2005. New corrective action requirements for all types of control devices apply if an operating limit is exceeded.
- The final amendments allow plants to establish operating limits for venturi scrubbers during the initial performance test or any other performance test that meets the emissions limits. The rule reduces the frequency for conducting subsequent performance tests from twice each permit term to once each permit term for emission units equipped with a baghouse.
- The final amendments provide flexibility for complying with the standards and decrease compliance costs. The amendments do not change the level of emissions control provided by the current standards.
- The final amendments are in response to a settlement agreement in a lawsuit brought by industry representatives.

- EPA considered the public comments received on the proposal in finalizing the rule.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 188 toxic air pollutants.
- EPA's published list of source categories includes integrated iron and steel facilities.
- For major sources within each source category, the CAA requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels reflecting the maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- Major sources are those that emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic pollutant or 25 tons a year or more of a combination of air toxics.
- The air toxics reduced include manganese and lead. Exposure to these compounds may cause cancer, central nervous system effects, kidney damage, and acute health disorders such as respiratory and skin irritation. Exposure to PM can aggravate existing respiratory and cardiovascular disease and is associated with increased risk of premature death.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's website on the Internet under recent additions at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.html>.
- For additional information, visit the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw>, or contact Mr. Phil Mulrine of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5289 or by email at mulrine.phil@epa.gov.